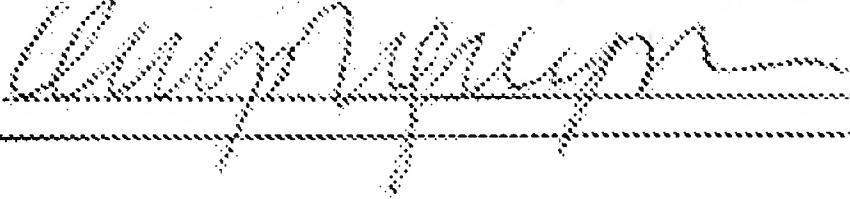


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: October 4, 2006

Signature: 

(Quyen Nguyen)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/824,936

Confirmation No.: 7289

Filing Date: April 14, 2004

Inventor(s): Vahid SAADAT et al.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBTAINING ENDOLUMINAL ACCESS

Examiner: M. Kasztejna

Group Art Unit: 3739

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated April 4, 2006 for which a response was due on July 4, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to October 4, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.